

REWIND

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOTEL -- DAY

A cab pulls up to the curb of an expensive hotel.

NIKKI LOW (37), in an expensive suit, body, hair and make-up perfect, climbs out, slides her sunglasses from her eyes to the top of her head. Her huge boob implants look ready to burst from her blouse.

She pays the CAB DRIVER. He stacks her luggage from the trunk onto the curb.

THREE BELLHOPS rush to assist her.

NIKKI

Now, now, boys, there's plenty of luggage to go around.

INT. HOTEL -- DAY

Nikki steps up to the counter, followed by the Bellhops, struggling with all her bags.

A HOTEL CLERK (20s) leans on the counter, stares at her bulging cleavage.

Nikki clears her throat, jostles her new boobs to get his attention.

His eyes dart from her chest to her face, embarrassed.

Nikki grins wide, showing off her exquisite dental work.

HOTEL CLERK

Yes, Miss... Uh?

NIKKI

Low. I have friends meeting me.
Reservation for three.

The hotel clerk types at a computer keyboard, checks his records, hands her a key.

HOTEL CLERK

Room ninety-two. Enjoy your stay,
Miss Low.

NIKKI

Call me Nikki. And thank you. I'm
sure we will.

The clerk snaps his finger for another young BELLHOP. The bellhop loads her luggage on a cart and leads her to an elevator.

Nikki swings her hips as she walks away, stops, turns her head to see if the hotel clerk is watching.

He smiles at her, then notices a YOUNG BEAUTY approaching the desk and diverts his attention to her instead.

Nikki's face sinks. She races to catch up with the bellhop and her luggage.

JEN MORRIS (37), wearing tight jeans, a revealing T-shirt, two sizes too small for her middle-aged body, and high-heeled boots, trips in through the front door, regains her footing as if this is a natural occurrence.

KATE WILSON (36), overweight, but still attractive, wearing an oversized summer dress, sunglasses, waddles in behind her, followed by another loaded down bellhop.

JEN

Don't worry. We've still got it,
Kate.

KATE

Maybe you still got it, but my four
kids took it and I'm afraid it's
gone and ain't coming back.

Jen giggles. She spots Nikki just as the elevator doors open.

Kate's jaw drops at the sight of Nikki.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh, shit. Is it possible?

They rush over to her.

JEN

Nikki? Jesus, it is her! Nikki,
wait!

Nikki turns as the bellhop loads the cart into the elevator. She races over to meet her friends.

The Bellhops wait impatiently, one keeps the elevator door from closing.

The three women embrace, bounce in excitement like school girls.

Nikki stands back, looks over Jen and Kate.

NIKKI

Oh, my god. You guys look great!

But Nikki's face says something different.

Kate curls her lip at the gesture.

JEN

Wow, look at your...

Nikki throws up her arms, spins around to show off her reconstructed body.

NIKKI

Divorce settlement.

KATE

You got boobs?

NIKKI

Oh, honey, I got way more. Poor Sam never knew what hit him. You think I still look fat though?

JEN

You get any thinner and we won't be able to find you if you turn sideways.

Jen points at Nikki's boobs.

JEN (CONT'D)

Those might give you away though.

Jen and Nikki laugh.

JEN (CONT'D)

I should have used your lawyer. I'm losing the house and the kids.

NIKKI

The kids? How the--

JEN

It's all a misunderstanding. I'm sure we'll get it sorted out soon. I'd rather not talk about it.

Nikki goes to take off Kate's sunglasses.

NIKKI

Let me get a look at you, hon. It's been years.

Kate slaps the glasses back on her face.

KATE

No!

Nikki steps back, startled.

KATE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Not here.

NIKKI

Oh. Fine.

Nikki leads her friends to the elevator.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

It's time to party, girls!

Kate mumbles.

JEN

Have you seen anyone else from school?

NIKKI

Nope, although we probably wouldn't recognize them.

Nikki and Jen laugh and jabber on as they get into the elevator. Kate follows reluctantly behind.

The doors close before she can get in. Instead of trying to get the doors to open, Kate steps back, waits for the elevator to leave, sighs with relief.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Nikki and Jen wait at the elevators.

Kate drags her suitcase up the flight of stairs.

JEN

Where the heck have you been?

NIKKI

We thought you'd fallen down the elevator shaft.

KATE

I should be so lucky. What's our room number?

NIKKI
Ninety-two.

Kate continues toward the room, lugging the suitcase behind her.

Nikki gives Jen a questioning look.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- DAY

Jen tosses her bag on the bed, plops down next to it.

NIKKI
So which beds do you want?

KATE
I'll take whatever.

Nikki and Jen unpack their clothes and items and put them away in the closet.

NIKKI
What's wrong with you, Kate?

KATE
Nothing. Nothing's wrong.

JEN
She had a fight with Randy before she left.

Kate glares at Jen.

NIKKI
When are you going to get the guts to leave that loser?

KATE
He's not a loser. He's just frustrated because of the kids and work and...

JEN
Yeah, that has always been a big issue. Take off the glasses, Kate. Show her.

KATE
No. It's nothing.

NIKKI
What's nothing?

Nikki sits on the bed next to Kate.

Kate yanks off her glasses revealing a black eye.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Oh my God, you let him hit you?

KATE

I don't let him do anything. He just does it.

NIKKI

Why, I'd take a frying pan to the side of his head if he were my husband.

JEN

That was my suggestion too.

KATE

Fine, you saw. Can we drop it now?

NIKKI

If that's what you want.

Kate sulks.

Nikki pulls out a cosmetic bag, holds up a tube of foundation.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I can fix it for you. Out of sight, out of mind.

Kate gives her a weak smile.

KATE

Thanks.

Jen holds up a photograph.

JEN

Look what I found when I was moving house.

NIKKI

Oh my God, it's the morning after pic.

Nikki grabs it from Jen, holds it so that Kate can see it as well.

INSERT PHOTOGRAPH

A photograph of SEVEN TEENAGER, three girls and four guys

KATE (V.O.)

That's the last time we were all
together.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH -- NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A flat-chested TEENAGER NIKKI (17), plain and awkward, still with braces on her teeth, sits huddled up against TEENAGER LEO (17), in front of the fire. Leo is incredibly good looking with long hair.

Leo pulls Nikki towards him, kisses her gently on the mouth. Young love.

TEENAGER LEO

What time are you leaving in the morning?

TEENAGER NIKKI

Around ten.

Leo digs in his pocket, pulls out a silver ring, holds it out to Nikki.

TEENAGER NIKKI (CONT'D)

No, you can't afford--

TEENAGER LEO

I used my money from working at the video store.

TEENAGER NIKKI

Oh wow, Leo!

TEENAGER LEO

You know I love you, Nikki?

Nikki nods.

TEENAGER LEO (CONT'D)

So I wanted to ask you if you'll marry me... Not right now... But when you're finished with college...

Nikki giggles, kisses Leo.

TEENAGER NIKKI

Of course I'm going to marry you.

TEENAGER LEO

I just wanted to make it all official like now that we're done with school and you're going to be away studying. We're not kids any more, you know.

TEENAGER NIKKI

I'm yours forever, Leo.

Nikki slides the ring onto her finger.

Leo takes a deep breath of relief.

LEO

Cool.

NIKKI

You're not still mad because I said I didn't want to... you know... do it... Until we're married.

Leo smiles lovingly at her.

LEO

Nah. I know you're saving for me anyway... when we're married.

NIKKI

Right. So why rush it?

TEENAGER JEN and TEENAGER KATE stumble down a dune, giggling, join Nikki and Leo at the fire.

JEN

Party time!

Teenager Kate is pretty and slim.

Teenager Jen drinks straight from a bottle of wine.

TEENAGER JEN

Our lives are just starting.

TEENAGER KATE

Where do you all think we'll be in a few years?

JEN

That's easy, Kate. You'll be a famous runway model. Leo and Nikki will be married with four kids.

Leo and Nikki laugh and hug each other.

THREE TEEN BOYS run from the sea to the fire, dripping wet.

TEENAGER TONY sits down behind Jen, wraps his arms around her, getting her wet.

JEN (CONT'D)
Eeewww. You're cold.

Tony takes the bottle from her, takes a swig, hands it back. He whispers in her ear.

TONY
You wanna go for a walk?

JEN
Oh yeah, right, like you really want to walk.

TONY
Just as far as the nearest secluded spot.

Jen swats at him.

JEN
You are so one track minded.

TONY
You complaining?

JEN
No.

The other two teen boys, GREG and PAUL watch Kate.

GREG
Dude, You thinking what I'm thinking?

PAUL
Yep.

The two boys pick Kate up, run toward the sea with the screaming Kate.

KATE
Don't you dare throw me in!

The boys laugh, wade into the water, drop Kate. A wave breaks over her head.

The two teens are suddenly knocked off their feet from behind.

Kate struggles to her feet.

RANDY (20), tall, muscular, drags the two teen boys out of the sea, plants them down on their feet, punches them both in the eyes.

RANDY
You like bullying girls?

Kate runs to the sand, grabs onto Randy's arm.

KATE
It's fine, we were just having fun.

Randy stops, looks down at her.

RANDY
Wow, you're even more beautiful
close up.

Kate blushes.

KATE
Thank you.

She glances at the two teen boys, stumbling back to the fire.

KATE (CONT'D)
You really didn't need to do that.

RANDY
I'd been watching you for a while.
When I thought you were in trouble,
I just...Kinda... Lost it.

The group watches Kate and Randy from the fire.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Someone as pretty as you needs to
be taken care of.

Jen takes a big sip of wine, calls out to Kate.

JEN
Hey, Kate, get your butt back here.

KATE
Coming!

Kate smiles at Randy.

KATE (CONT'D)
You from around here?

RANDY
Vacationing with the family.
Will you go out with me sometime?
I'm Randy.

KATE
Sure, I'd love to.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- DAY

Kate clutches the photograph. A tear wells in her eyes.

KATE
Well, that certainly feels like a
lifetime ago. So much for being a
runway model.

Kate wipes the tear away furiously.

KATE (CONT'D)
On the bright side, I did meet
Randy that night, and we've been
together ever since.

NIKKI
Happily married, right?

JEN
You think Leo's still mad at you
for never returning, Nikki?

NIKKI
I'm sure he's over it by now. We
were just kids.

Nikki heads into the bathroom with her cosmetic bag.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM - BATHROOM -- DAY

Nikki opens the bag, digs inside for a lipstick. She
hesitates, pulls out the silver ring from the bottom of the
bag.

JEN
Yeah, but you two were pretty
tight.

Nikki swallows hard, puts the ring back in the bag.

NIKKI

He probably won't even be at the reunion. Parties weren't really his thing.

Nikki touches up her lipstick, smacks her lips together, stares at her reflection.

INT. RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Nikki, Jen and Kate, dressed well for a night on the town, take menus from a WAITER.

Kate's phone rings. She answers.

KATE

Hello... Yes, this is Mrs. Wilson speaking...

Kate glances nervously at Nikki and Jen.

KATE (CONT'D)

No, that won't be a good time for me. Why don't I call you back tomorrow and we can schedule then?

Kate turns to try and block the conversation.

KATE (CONT'D)

I understand the urgency, but now is not a good time.

Kate snaps the phone closed, composes herself.

KATE (CONT'D)

School.

JEN

Hope it's not anything serious.

KATE

Oh, it's nothing.

Nikki scans the room for eligible men.

NIKKI

Why is it that there are no good looking men our age any more?

KATE

They're probably saying the same about women our age.

JEN
Not possible. Look at us.

Kate reads the menu, mumbles under her breath.

KATE
I wish.

Jen checks her face in a hand-held mirror.

NIKKI
You think I need to go in for an
eyebrow lift? I mean, like, don't
they sag too much?

Nikki grabs Jen's mirror, lifts her brows with her fingers,
gazes at her reflection.

JEN
You look beautiful.

Nikki smiles, content for the moment, hands the mirror back
to Jen.

KATE
Actually it might help somewhat.

Jen slugs Kate under the table.

Kate's black eye is concealed with a thick layer of makeup
but it's still very evident. She lowers her head, tries to
hide behind her hair as the waiter approaches.

WAITER
Can I get you ladies something to
drink?

JEN
Coke.

NIKKI
Bour--

Nikki glances at Jen, then waves that order away.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
No, make it Coke as well, make it
diet.

KATE
Chocolate milkshake.

Jen smiles, taps Nikki.

JEN

It's okay, you guys can have a drink.

NIKKI

Are you sure? I don't want to...

JEN

Look, I'm used to it. It's okay.

KATE

Great.

(to waiter)

I'll have a bourbon on the rocks.

NIKKI

Diet coke is fine for me.

KATE

Actually, make it a double.

Nikki gazes around the room, flirts with a group of guys at the next table, using just her eyes.

One of the MEN takes notice, smiles.

Nikki returns her attention to the menu.

JEN

Someone from the reunion?

NIKKI

Probably not. But he's hot.

The waiter returns to the table with the drinks. He prepares to take their order.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Just a dinner salad for me.

Jen grimaces.

JEN

Guess I'll have the same.

NIKKI

Eat. Like, what's wrong with you?

JEN

I've been working all year on my stupid diet for this reunion. Don't want to disappoint the class of '99.

NIKKI

Don't starve on my account. I can't eat more than a few bites at a time since my surgery anyway.

Jen bites her lower lip.

JEN

Make it a chef's salad then.

The waiter writes, looks at Kate.

KATE

Prime rib, baked potato, with sour cream, lots of butter, and I'll have soup. Does it come with dessert? Oh, can we get some appetizers here? Let's see, give us your deep fried surprise.

Nikki and Jen's eyes widen.

The waiter writes and nods.

Kate folds her menu, hands it back, smirks.

TREVOR (30s) and MITCH (30s), both executive types, stride over from the other table.

Trevor leans close, whispers in Nikki's ear.

TREVOR

Can we buy you lovely ladies a drink?

Nikki wiggles with glee in her seat, holds out her hand.

NIKKI

Sure, want to share our table? I'm Nikki.

Trevor shakes it.

TREVOR

Name's Trevor, and this is...

MITCH

Mitch.

The two men pull up chairs. Trevor and Mitch pay most of their attention to Nikki.

JEN
Hi, I'm Jen, this is our friend
Kate.

Trevor and Mitch nod at them.

NIKKI
You here for the class reunion?

TREVOR
Nope, just here on business.

Kate looks for something to hide behind, then pushes away from the table causing the leather chair to squeak. Kate waves her hand in front of her, crunches up her face.

KATE
God, Nikki.

Nikki gazes around, avoids eye contact with the two men, both which by now have gotten a whiff of something horrid. The morbid stench shows on everyone's face.

Jen tries to stifle a giggle as she waves her hand in front of her nose.

NIKKI
I didn't do that!

Kate gazes at the two men with suspicion.

TREVOR
It wasn't me!

MITCH
Good god. Don't look at me either.

All eyes on Jen. Jen breaks out in uncontrollable laughter.

JEN
I would never.

The Waiter brings in their dinner, places the food in front of them.

The two men look at each other.

Mitch nudges Trevor as they both stand.

TREVOR
We don't want to interrupt your
dinner. We just finished ours and--

They stand. Nikki puts on the charm.

NIKKI
Oh, c'mon fellas. Don't leave us
now.

Trevor checks his watch.

TREVOR
Shoot. We were due in a meeting ten
minutes ago.

NIKKI
A business meeting at night?

MITCH
Yeah, really hate to leave you, but
work, work, word, you know.

NIKKI
Can we meet up somewhere later
then?

TREVOR
Sorry, uh, we have a flight leaving
town tonight. Nice meeting you
though.

Trevor and Mitch scurry off.

Jen is still fanning her face. Nikki's face sinks.

JEN
What pigs. How rude.

NIKKI
Darn.

Jen and Nikki gaze at Kate.

Kate stuffs food in her mouth as fast as she can, tries not
to make eye contact with either of them.

INT. HOTEL - ELEVATOR -- NIGHT

Kate, Jen and Nikki step into the elevator. Jen pushes the
buttons, the doors close.

Nikki makes a face. Jen covers her nose.

NIKKI
Seriously? How could you, Kate?

KATE

What was I supposed to say? Sorry guys, I just farted, move to the other side of the room until the fog lifts?

Nikki crosses her arms, pouts.

NIKKI

Would've worked for me. I was onto something there.

JEN

At least try to excuse yourself. Jesus.

Kate becomes enraged.

KATE

I'll make sure my ass cheeks are glued together from now on! I knew I should've stayed home.

NIKKI

Oh, stop being silly. We're just saying it wasn't necessary to blame someone else when you knew it was you.

KATE

Considering the way you look, Nikki, I thought one small handicap wouldn't make much difference.

The bell pings as they reach their floor. The elevator doors open.

Kate storms out, down the hallway.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- NIGHT

Kate lies on the bed with earphones on, sulking.

Jen and Nikki lie in two separate double beds, dressed in pajamas.

Kate heads for the bathroom.

Nikki leans over the side of the double bed, whispers.

NIKKI

We really need to have a talk with her. Like, she's been pissed since you guys got here.

JEN

Randy is such a dildo. All he does is beat on her. Can you blame her?

NIKKI

We have to help her break free from that son-of-a-bitch for good.

JEN

She's so browbeaten, it's going to take an act of god to get her leave him now.

NIKKI

Considering her flatulence problem, I'm surprised he's still around.

JEN

He's got a good thing going. She just accepts the way he treats her.

NIKKI

I can work miracles.

Nikki gazes at her reflection in the dresser mirror across the room, pinches her nose.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

My nose is too big. Don't you think my nose is too big?

JEN

Your nose is perfect.

Nikki turns, gazes at a side view.

NIKKI

It's like huge. With my nose and your brain we could build a Boeing.

JEN

Don't be so hard on yourself.

A loud buzz sound is heard from the next room.

Nikki gestures quotation marks emphasizing the word "Husband" with her fingers.

JEN (CONT'D)

(yells)

Kate, what the hell are you doing
in there?! We want to talk to you
and it's getting late.

Kate comes in with an electric tooth brush shoved in her
mouth and toothpaste all over her lips. She mumbles.

KATE

Just a sec.

Nikki and Jen settle down. Nikki switches off the light.

The buzzing stops, the sink water turns on O.S.

Nikki covers her head with a pillow.

NIKKI

We'll like, talk to her tomorrow.

The buzzing noise begins again. Minutes pass.

Nikki and Jen cover up, try to sleep.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing now?

The buzzing stops. Kate opens the door, now with a face
covered in cold cream.

KATE

I'll be there in a minute I said.
Geez.

JEN

Come on, Kate.

Kate slams the door closed.

The buzzing starts up again.

Nikki jumps up, gazes at Jen for a moment then reality hits
her.

NIKKI

She's snuck in a...

Nick air draws a dildo.

JEN

No way!

They both pull up their faces in disgust.

NIKKI
That's so gross.

Jen covers her face with the blankets, bursts out laughing.

Nikki throws a pillow at her.

JEN
Well now we know how her marriage
has lasted so long.

EXT. HOTEL - SWIMMING POOL -- DAY

Nikki lies at the pool in a bikini.

Jen has on shorts and T-shirt.

Kate wears a large dress.

JEN
Where the hell did you get that
thing anyway?

Kate looks away.

KATE
How many times do I have to tell
you, it's not a vibrator.

Nikki sits up, takes Kate by the hand.

NIKKI
I'm proud of you, hon. It's the
first step to liberation.

KATE
It's my electric toothbrush,
dammit.

Kate yanks her hand away, gets up.

NIKKI
Well, you must just about have the
cleanest set of teeth.

KATE
You two just can't stand that I'm
still happily married and you're
not.

Kate trudges back to the hotel.

JEN

Maybe I should go talk to her.

NIKKI

I'm beginning to think like, she should just go home.

JEN

That's not nice. Poor thing has problems. What happened to the miracle worker you claim to be?

NIKKI

She's totally getting on my nerves now.

Nikki lowers herself in her lounging chair, pulls her sunglasses over her eyes.

JEN

She's still our friend, problems and all.

Jen lies back, a sly grin on her face.

JEN (CONT'D)

Anyhow, I never knew you to be someone who just gives up on a challenge like that.

Nikki blinks, taken aback.

NIKKI

She's beyond help.

JEN

So, you are giving up?

NIKKI

I didn't say that.

Jen jumps up, rushes in the direction Kate went.

Nikki tips her glasses, watches Jen go, resumes her sun bathing.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- DAY

Jen opens the door, finds Kate slam packing her belongings into her suitcase in tears.

JEN

Ah, now come on. Nikki didn't mean anything by what she said.

KATE

I haven't felt comfortable since I got here. Nikki drives me crazy.

Kate sniffles.

JEN

You've been looking forward to this reunion all year.

KATE

I feel like this overstuffed whale with her around.

Jen stops her from packing.

JEN

Don't be so hard on yourself. You look beautiful. It just won't be the same without you here.

Kate turns to her.

KATE

You mean that?

JEN

I want you to stay. Forget Nikki, she's just a bit full of herself. Enjoy your vacation away from Randy and the kids. Do it for me, okay?

Kate thinks a moment, nods, unpacks the items.

KATE

Nikki's turned into a real bitch, since her surgery...

JEN

Pride cometh before the fall, you know.

KATE

Nothing could knock that bat out of her tree.

Jen gives Kate a hug.

JEN

She wasn't always like this.

KATE
 Don't you wish sometimes you could
 turn back the clock?

JEN
 There's not a day that goes by that
 I don't wish to be a teenager
 again.

KATE
 I'd kill for a tight teen body
 again.

JEN
 Yours, or the boys'?

Kate laughs.

KATE
 Both.

JEN
 You sure could've had your pick in
 those days.

The two women sigh.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY -- SAME

Nikki stands outside the open door, listens.

KATE (O.S.)
 I guess with Nikki's money, she has
 all that.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM - SAME

JEN
 She couldn't keep her husband.

KATE
 That was before she had the work
 done.

JEN
 Maybe she's not real happy either.

Kate shrugs.

KATE
 Maybe, but she has options we can't
 even dream of.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

And she could've just married Leo.
I'm sure they would've still been
happy.

JEN

I'm sure she had her reasons. I'll
see you back down at the pool?

Kate nods.

EXT. HOTEL - HALLWAY -- SAME

Nikki darts to the stairwell.

Jen closes the door behind her, walks to the elevator.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Kate's phone rings. She stares at the caller identification,
then kills the call, throws her phone in her bag.

She grabs her jar of face hair remover, gazes in the mirror.

She applies a small amount on the dark overgrowth forming on
her upper lip. She waits a few minutes, wipes it off. The
dark hair comes off on the tissue.

A strange look comes over Kate's face.

Kate gazes at the door, then at Nikki's large beauty bag.

Kate goes through Nikki's bag, pulls out Nikki's expensive
beauty cream, twists off the lid, takes a whiff.

Kate plasters the beauty cream all over her face.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- NIGHT

Kate is already in bed, snoring.

Jen and Nikki creep in, gather their night clothes and other
items to ready themselves for bed.

Nikki washes her face, brushes her teeth.

NIKKI

Wonder if like, Kate remembered to
brush her teeth.

Jen slaps her arm.

Nikki giggles.

JEN

Shhh.

Jen slips into a nightgown.

The two switch places.

Jen combs her hair, ties it up in a ponytail.

Nikki slathers her beauty cream all over her face.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- DAY

Light streams in through a gap in the curtains.

Kate snores.

Jen's eyes flutter open.

JEN

Girls. Wake up. We've got a big day today and I want to get an early start.

Nikki mumbles, pulls the blankets over her face.

NIKKI

I'm tired. Give me a few more minutes.

Nikki rolls over, falls back to sleep.

Jen jumps out of bed gathers her clothes, pats Kate.

Kate snorts and coughs. She wakes.

JEN

Come on, Kate. Let's go get some coffee and breakfast. We can let the beauty queen get more sleep.

KATE

Okay. Okay. Give me a sec.

Kate rolls out of bed, heads for the bathroom.

Jen dresses, brushes her hair.

Kate comes out of the bathroom fully dressed, ready to go.

Jen whispers in Nikki's ear.

JEN

We'll be down at the coffee shop,
so meet us down there when you get
up.

Nikki bats her away.

NIKKI

Yeah, yeah. Later.

Jen and Kate head out of the room.

INT. HOTEL - COFFEE SHOP -- DAY

Kate stuffs the last bit of waffle into her mouth.

Jen sips on a cup of coffee.

JEN

Geez. Is she going to sleep all
day? I want to get going on the
shopping, find my dress.

KATE

To be honest, I like it better when
she's not with us.

Jen checks her watch.

JEN

I just hope she gets up before
noon.

Nikki storms into the coffee shop, hair uncombed, dressed in
a T-shirt and jeans, wearing sunglasses.

JEN (CONT'D)

You're wearing that shopping?

Nikki slams herself down into the booth next to Jen.

NIKKI

It doesn't matter now. My life is
ruined.

Kate stares out the window.

JEN

What the hell happened?

Nikki pulls off her sunglasses revealing her bare eyebrows
and missing eyelashes.

NIKKI I could just die.

Jen covers her mouth in horror.

JEN (CONT'D)
Oh, my God.

NIKKI
Yeah, like oh my god. What the hell
am I going to do now?

Kate keeps eating, doesn't miss a beat.

KATE
Buy new ones.

JEN
How did you manage to do that?

NIKKI
I didn't. I just used my normal
face cream and woke up like this.

KATE
You sure you didn't mix it up with
something else?

NIKKI
I'm positive!

Jen looks at Nikki, tries to think of a solution.

JEN
Sorry, Nikki. Really. We'll go find
something to fix you up. Nobody
will even notice.

Nikki hides her eyes with her sunglasses again, partly to
hide her tears.

NIKKI
The most important night of my life
and it's ruined. I can't go now!

KATE
Ah, that's too bad.

JEN
Don't be silly. You're going even
if I have to drag your ass down
there.

NIKKI

I'm going back to bed. I can't deal with this.

Nikki rushes out of the coffee shop.

Kate smiles, relieved.

JEN

Poor thing. She must have picked up the wrong jar or something.

KATE

Yeah, poor thing. She probably couldn't see what she was holding past those whoppers.

Jen drinks the last of her coffee.

JEN

Guess it's just you and me shopping today. Let's get on the road.

KATE

Sounds like fun. I'm really looking forward to it.

EXT. CITY - STREET -- DAY

Jen leads Kate down the sidewalk toward a dress shop.

JEN

I hope what I'm looking for is in here. I'm pooped.

KATE

You know, back in school, Nikki always said you were boy crazy. She said she didn't even trust you around Leo. She said you wouldn't think twice to take someone's else's boyfriend.

JEN

Nikki said that? Why would she say such a thing? We were supposed to be best friends. I never even flirted with Leo.

They stop in front of the shop, gaze at the dresses in the window display.

KATE
Beats me. Like Tony Barrago?

JEN
Yeah, but Nikki didn't like him.

KATE
No, but she said you acted like a slut to get him to notice you and the only reason he wanted you was because you were easy.

JEN
Are you serious?

KATE
Would I lie to you?

Jen stares off, deep in thought.

JEN
She was acting strange when I dated him. Maybe I was a bit pushy?

KATE
You weren't pushy. Nikki was a bitch back then too. She always talked behind your back.

JEN
She did!? Well, we'll just see who's desperate to get the guys tonight. She only had one boyfriend in school.

KATE
Yeah, let's find you a killer dress.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- DAY

Nikki sits on the bed, dressed in a pink satin evening gown. A BEAUTICIAN glues on false eyelashes for her.

NIKKI
Thank God you were available at short notice. I don't know what I would've done.

Her artfully penciled in eyebrows actually look better than when they did with hair.

The Beautician stands back, admires her work.

BEAUTICIAN

You look set to go.

Nikki looks in the mirror, smiles, satisfied.

NIKKI

I sure do.

Nikki pulls out her wallet, writes a check, hands it to the Beautician.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Before you leave. In your professional opinion... Do you think I need to get my nose fixed?

BEAUTICIAN

Uh... No. You look great.

The Beautician leaves as Jen and Kate burst through the door, loaded down with shopping bags.

Nikki flutters her eyelashes to keep from sticking her eyelids together.

NIKKI

Like, it took you guys long enough. We gotta get ready. The reunion is in an hour.

JEN

We had a lot of shopping to do.

Kate glares at Nikki with a smug look on her face.

KATE

Thought you weren't going, Nikki?

NIKKI

Oh I'm going all right. Found a miracle worker. Death wouldn't keep me from going now.

Kate sulks.

NIKKI (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

You'd like it if I weren't going, wouldn't you, Kate?

Nikki holds out Kate's hair remover cream.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I don't use hair remover. I had all mine removed by laser. You know that though, Kate.

KATE

You went through my stuff.

NIKKI

I did, and isn't it strange that all your hair remover containers are empty?

KATE

Are you accusing me of--

Nikki stands, gives Kate a challenging look.

NIKKI

I am.

JEN

Now wait a minute. You can't go accusing her of something like that.

Nikki takes the jar of beauty cream, smears it on Jen's arm, then rubs the hair off, shows her the hairy tissue.

JEN (CONT'D)

Oh.

NIKKI

Yeah, oh. Like, it didn't take me long to figure that one out. Unless you also have a jar of hair remover stashed away somewhere.

JEN

No.

NIKKI

Well, I guess that's it then.

Kate rolls her eyes.

KATE

It was just a prank. I didn't think it would cause such a scene.

JEN

Well, it was rather silly of you, but maybe you deserved it, Nikki, for the way you've been acting.

NIKKI

I've been acting? What about Kate?
This is bullshit, Jen, and you know
it.

JEN

Whatever. I've got reunion to go
to. You two fight this out for all
I care.

Jen pulls her dress out of the bag, rushes into the bathroom,
closes the door. The shower turns on.

NIKKI

A simple apology, Kate, and I'll
pretend it never happened.

KATE

Screw you, Nikki. Jen always said
you were a bitch and now I believe
her.

Nikki spins around, mortified.

NIKKI

What?

Kate pulls her dress out.

KATE

Yeah, she said the reason you only
dated one guy was because no one
really like you. And then you cold-
heartedly dumped him.

NIKKI

Oh, we'll just see how well I'm
liked tonight, won't we?

KATE

Fine by me.

NIKKI

Things have changed, Kate. You
aren't the prom queen any more, are
you?

KATE

And you aren't the sweet innocent
little I'm-gonna-save-the-world
marine biologist wannabe any more.
You're just a high priced fake
bitch who has a need to be noticed
by men.

NIKKI

At least I still get noticed.

Kate sneers.

KATE

You wanna know the sad reality,
Nikki? Now that you have those
knockers, no man will ever see you
as more than a nice rack again.

Kate slumps down on the bed.

KATE (CONT'D)

You really blew it. With Leo. You
had a guy who loved you for who you
are... Were.

Nikki grabs a purse, storms out of the room, slams the door.

INT. HOTEL - BALLROOM -- NIGHT

Loud music plays from a live band in the front of the room.
The room is crowded, with aging CLASSMATES.

Nikki, in a tight, sexy number, saunters into the room, gazes
around.

MARY (37), thick glasses, dressed in 60s flower child
clothing, looking weathered, sits at a table with name tags,
searches Nikki's face a moment.

MARY

And you are?

NIKKI

Nikki Low, I mean Nelson.

MARY

Oh, my god. Really? Nikki, you look
like a million bucks. Give me some
love.

Mary jumps up to hug Nikki, but Nikki backs away, cautious,
looks at the name tag on Mary's dress, but it still doesn't
ring a bell.

NIKKI

Do I know you?

Mary stumbles back a bit shocked.

MARY

Nikki? It's me, Mary. Drama club, remember?

Nikki takes a closer look, her mouth drops open.

NIKKI

Wow, it is you. Gosh, it's great to see you after all these years.

Nikki finally warms up to a hug from Mary.

MARY

Well, duh. It's been forever, hasn't it?

Mary holds up Nikki's hand, opens her palm.

MARY (CONT'D)

Didn't I tell ya back in high school when I read your palm that our paths would cross again?

Nikki gives Mary a once over.

NIKKI

Yeah, you sure did. You married?

MARY

Sure. Married Ben. You remember Ben, from drama club, right? He went to fetch me a drink so wait for him, I'm sure he'd love to see you again. Where's Kate and Jen? I'm dying to see them too.

Nikki shrugs, pins the name tag on her dress.

NIKKI

They'll be along shortly, I guess.

MARY

What about you? Still happily married to Leo?

Nikki flinches.

NIKKI

No. I... Uh... met someone in college, fell in love, but we're divorced now.

Mary shakes her head, confused.

MARY

You were supposed to marry Leo. It was in the cards.

NIKKI

Sorry to disappoint you.

MARY

Well in that case, I guess it's gonna be really awkward for you seeing him again.

Nikki glances around the room.

NIKKI

He's here?

MARY

I know he came in, but haven't seen him since.

Nikki scans the room, searching for one familiar face in a sea of many.

Mary takes her drink from a geeky and fat looking BEN (39), whose eyes remain locked on Nikki.

NIKKI

I'll see you around, Mary.

MARY

Yeah, see you.

Mary notices Ben gawking at Nikki.

MARY (CONT'D)

Did you get a load of her?

BEN

Her who?

MARY

Miss legs and tits. That's Nikki Nelson.

BEN

Really? She doesn't look a bit like she did back in school.

Mary chuckles.

MARY

Neither do we, Ben, but I'm afraid
the clock didn't favor us as well
as it did her.

Ben's eyes remain locked on Nikki.

BEN

Money tends to hold back time. Must
be loaded.

A bit of resentment crosses Mary's face. She swats him in the
arm to break his trance.

MARY

Something's not right. She's
cheated fate.

Mary assists other CLASSMATES, as they enter, with their name
tags.

Jen stumbles into the room with her high heels. Kate catches
her before she falls.

JEN

Damn, I hate these things.

Jen adjusts the strap on the her shoe.

KATE

Oh, look. It's Mary.

Jen and Kate wait in line, anxious to meet up with their high
school friend.

KATE (CONT'D)

Wow, she looks...

JEN

We don't look that way, do we?

KATE

You sure don't. She looks twenty
years older than she is.

JEN

I wonder if Leo made it? I hope he
gives it to Nikki but good for
ditching him.

KATE

Yeah, I hope everyone ditches her.

Jen and Kate step up in line. Jen hugs Mary.

JEN

Hi, Mary!

Kate joins in.

MARY

Oh, you guys!! I've been waiting
all night to see you two!

JEN

Is Nikki here already?

MARY

Just follow every man in the room's
stare and you'll find her.

Jen turns cross.

JEN

We'll just see about that.

Mary hands them their name tags.

MARY

Did something happen in Nikki's
life to make things change?

JEN

Yeah, she discovered money and
became a bitch. Is that what you
want to know?

Mary bites her lip, puzzled.

MARY

No, that's not it.

KATE

Well, join us a bit later.

MARY

Will do.

Jen and Kate stroll deeper into the crowd, spot Nikki talking
to an attractive MAN.

JEN

That couldn't be Leo, could it?

KATE

Only if he shrunk a foot.

LEO
Nope, Leo would be the suave,
handsome dude standing behind you,
listening in on your conversation.

Jen and Kate swing around, get an eyeful of the gorgeous LEO,
tall, dashing, hair still long. He gives them an easy smile.

Jen throws her arms around him, gives him a hug.

JEN
You are a sight to behold.

She takes his hand, drags him to a table.

JEN (CONT'D)
Join us, would you?

Kate glances over to where Nikki stands, then follows Jen and
Leo.

Leo laughs, pulls back in protest.

LEO
Whoa, Jen. I need to get my--

JEN
Wife? You have your wife here? I'm
sorry, I should've asked. I just
assumed you were here alone.

Leo chuckles.

LEO
I need to get my drink is what I
wanted to say.

Jen breathes a sigh of relief.

JEN
Sure, we'll wait for you.

Leo picks up a place card from a table, shows it to Jen.

LEO
Some knucklehead decided we're
still at school and prearranged
seating.

Jen's face drops.

JEN
Damn. Well, I'm sure we'll shuffle
around later.

Leo disappears into the crowd.

KATE

Wow, he's even better looking than ever.

JEN

Yep, and if I can win him over, that'll really show Miss-I'm-so-fake.

Kate's face lights up.

KATE

Oh, yeah, brilliant plan. Just one little snag.

JEN

What?

Kate points to the other side of the room to where Nikki is.

Nikki turns, almost knocks into Leo.

He grabs her arm to steady her.

LEO

Geez, I'm sorry.

Nikki stares at him in disbelief.

NIKKI

Leo?

Leo frowns, clearly not recognizing Nikki.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

It's me. Nikki.

A pained look crosses over Leo's face. He lets go of Nikki's arm, steps back.

LEO

Oh my god, Nikki! I can't believe it's you. This just makes my evening.

Nikki goes to give him a hug.

Leo backs away, enraged.

LEO (CONT'D)

Fuck you, Nikki. I can't believe you'd have the nerve to show up here after dumping me the way you did.

Nikki flashes him her most charming smile.

NIKKI

You've got me all wrong. I came here to see you tonight to explain.

Leo looks her up and down.

LEO

Let it die, Nikki. I did years ago... It seems, along with your conscience.

Leo turns to walk away. Nikki jumps in front of him.

NIKKI

Please, Leo...

LEO

Did you get really drunk one night and get knocked up?

NIKKI

No.

LEO

I've already asked my parents if they kept your letters and phone calls from me.

NIKKI

No, I didn't--

Leo holds up his hand to silence.

LEO

Then we really don't have anything to say to each other.

Nikki watches Leo walk away.

He and old friend high five.

A tear runs down Nikki's cheek. She wipes it away, realizes that her bottom lash has come loose.

NIKKI

Shit.

Nikki pushes through the crowd, keeping her head down.

Mary spots her on her way out.

MARY
Nikki! Do you remember--

NIKKI
Not now, Mary.

Nikki keeps going.

Mary leans close to Ben.

MARY
Told you she's become a real rich
bitch.

Jen and Kate watch Nikki rush into the ladies' room.

JEN
Guess that didn't go so well.

KATE
Ha.

Leo returns, sits next to them for a moment, but his mind seems to wander.

LEO
So have you guys always kept
contact?... And Nikki?

KATE
Not that much. Jen and I see each
other whenever we can.

LEO
I see.

JEN
We'd rather talk about you anyway.
So, whatcha been up to, Leo?

Leo glances around, searching. Not seeing Nikki, he continues.

LEO
Normal stuff, work mostly.

JEN
What kind of work did you end up
in?

LEO
Psychiatry.

KATE
Oh wow. I thought you weren't going
to study.

LEO
After Nikki left, I figured what
the heck. My parents convinced me
it was the right thing to do.

KATE
That's cool.

JEN
You've always been great with
people. I'm sure you're the best
psychologist.

LEO
I'm a better surfer than shrink.
How 'bout you two?

KATE
Married with four kids.

JEN
Divorced with two.

LEO
Whoa, I'm like way behind the two
of you.

Suddenly things become uneasy.

Leo spots Nikki heading toward the table where Jen and Kate
are. He turns to them.

LEO (CONT'D)
Say, you want to dance?

Kate and Jen answer at the same time.

JEN
Sure. I'd love to.

KATE
Sure.

LEO
Sorry. One at a time.

JEN
Is it okay, Kate?

Kate nods.

Leo grins, grabs Jen's hand.

The two leave Kate alone, head for the dance floor.

Kate gazes around the room, slumps in despair.

Nikki keeps her head down, sits at her assigned seat next to Kate.

NIKKI
What the hell does she think she's doing?

KATE
Having fun. Do you mind?

NIKKI
She could have fun with someone else.

KATE
I don't see his ring on your finger.

NIKKI
Eat shit, Kate.

Leo glances at Nikki over Jen's shoulder, then returns his attention to Jen, smiles at her.

Nikki jumps up, grabs the first attractive MAN she comes to, pulls him on the dance floor.

The Man stumbles after her onto the dance floor in awe.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
So, you married?

The Man shakes his head.

Leo whirls Jen around the dance floor.

JEN
So, what happened after high school?

LEO
Study, work, surfing.

JEN
Where you living now?

LEO
Still with the folks. Didn't seem like much fun moving into a place of my own with no Nikki to share it with.

JEN
I'm really sorry. I know you must have been crushed by her.

LEO
That was a long time ago.

Jen grins as Leo pulls her close.

JEN
You're gorgeous still, you know that?

Jen leans her head on Leo's chest.

LEO
Not so bad looking yourself.

Nikki notices, gets close to the guy she's dancing with.

NIKKI
You say we were in Math class together?

MAN
Yeah, but you probably never noticed me, I--

NIKKI
Oh, I'm sure I would, where did you sit?

MAN
Right behind you. But trust me. You won't remember.

Jen looks up into Leo's eyes.

Nikki pulls the Man even closer, their noses almost touch. She stares deep into his eyes.

NIKKI
I have a very good memory for faces. What is your name again?

MAN

Sarah Miller. Ring a bell?

Nikki stumbles back horrified.

SARAH (39) smiles.

NIKKI

I think I do remember you now.

SARAH

Great. Still want to dance?

Leo whirls Jen around. Nikki notices.

NIKKI

I'm really not feeling all that well. Sorry, Sarah.

SARAH

Figures.

Sarah shrugs it off, returns to his table.

Nikki scurries back, sits next to Kate, looking flustered.

KATE

Scare off another one?

NIKKI

Why don't you go hide in the bathroom?

Kate smirks.

Jen and Leo return to the table. Leo kisses her hand.

LEO

Thanks for the dance.

JEN

My pleasure.

Nikki jumps up.

NIKKI

Maybe you and I could have a dance, Leo?

LEO

For old time's sake?

NIKKI

Yeah.

LEO
I don't think so. I need to get
back to my table. It looks like
they're getting ready to serve
dinner.

Leo smiles at Jen.

LEO (CONT'D)
We'll meet up later.

JEN
Right.

Leo heads across the room.

NIKKI
Things don't change much with you,
do they, Jen?

JEN
Oh, suddenly now you want him back.

Nikki looks away, pained.

NIKKI
Keep your paws off.

Kate sits up, amused, watches the two ping-pong assaults at
each other.

JEN
Leo can be with whoever he wants to
be with.

Nikki snarls.

NIKKI
Not tonight. I need to talk to him.

A WAITER serves them plates of food.

KATE
Looks like you blew your chance for
that.

NIKKI
Nobody asked you, Miss Piggy.

JEN
Boohoo. Guess he's moved on without
you.

Nikki slams her fork to the plate, enraged.

NIKKI

It won't take him long to tire of you.

JEN

What's that supposed to mean?

NIKKI

You were a lot more interesting twenty years ago... Maybe it was the alcohol that made you more fun back then.

Jen's nostrils flair. She stuffs in the food as fast as it will go in without choking.

KATE

That was just cruel.

NIKKI

Look. I didn't mean--

The WAITER approaches their table.

WAITER

Can I get you ladies a glass of wine with your dinner?

JEN

Yeah, and bring the whole friggin' bottle and plant it right here, baby.

Kate and Nikki stop, stare at Jen in shock.

NIKKI

Jen, don't--

JEN

Put a sock in it. I'll show you just how interesting I can be.

Nikki takes a bite of food, shoves her plate away.

Jen doesn't eat, tilts her wine glass for the waiter to fill it.

Kate scrapes her plate clean.

The Waiter fills each glass full of wine, places the wine bottle in the middle of them.

Jen slams it back, pours another.

NIKKI

Jen, you're making a huge mistake.

JEN

Mind your own business. If it's possible.

KATE

Yeah, Nikki. You need to learn to butt out.

Nikki shoves away from the table, grabs her wine, heads for the patio door.

EXT. HOTEL - PATIO -- NIGHT

Nikki leans against a rail, stares deep in thought down at a lit swimming pool. She swirls her glass, takes a sip.

Leo walks out, stands and watches her for a beat before approaching.

LEO

I keep trying to figure out what happened to my Nikki?

Nikki whirls around.

LEO(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

The one who promised to come back to me twenty years ago and never did.

NIKKI

She's right here.

LEO

I don't see her.

NIKKI

She's grown up. Maybe you've become blinded by time.

LEO

I doubt it. All I've seen tonight is a woman who is so concerned with how she looks that even her friends can barely stand to be around her any more.

Nikki looks away, embarrassed.

NIKKI

Jen's an alcoholic bitch and Kate's so bitter that I doubt anything I do would make a difference.

Leo takes Nikki's arm, pulls her around to face him.

LEO

I would give anything to just see an inkling of the old Nikki again.

NIKKI

You don't like what you see now?

LEO

No.

NIKKI

This is who I am now.

Leo walks back to the door.

LEO

Then I guess I'm wasting my time out here.

INT. HOTEL - BALLROOM - NIGHT

Jen pours a fresh glass of wine.

KATE

You think she went to the ladies' room?

JEN

No, she's outside plotting her next move.

GREG, slightly pudgy, strolls over to their table.

GREG

Jen?

Jen looks up confused.

JEN

Holy god. Greg! I never thought I'd see you here.

Jen plants a kiss on his cheek.

GREG

Is Kate around?

Kate grins, excited.

JEN
She's sitting right there.

Greg flinches.

Kate's face sinks, despondent.

Greg stands, gazes at Kate.

GREG
Oh. Kate, sorry, I didn't...

Kate snaps back.

KATE
It's okay. I wouldn't have
recognized me either.

Greg pulls up a chair.

GREG
I'm not that recognizable any more.

Kate swallows hard.

GREG (CONT'D)
So what's been going on?

JEN
Not much. We're just all suffering
from our failed marriages, middle
age bulge, and the usual issues.

GREG
Ah, well. You both look good.

Kate rolls her eyes.

KATE
Right.

JEN
How's your life turned out, Greg?

GREG
Couldn't be better. I'm at the top
of my game. Didn't expect that, did
you?

Jen lifts her glass to toast Greg.

JEN

Kudos to you. I figured once you dropped the weed habit and stopped playing those dumb arcade games, you'd do fine.

GREG

Who said I dropped the weed?

Jen laughs, now slightly tipsy.

JEN

So what's your game?

GREG

I'm the Playstation Spear Hunter world champion.

Jen nearly spits out her wine.

JEN

Some things really don't change.

GREG

Where's the rest of the gang?

JEN

Nikki's sulking outside. Leo is at his table.

Greg raises his brows, surprised.

GREG

Who'd have thought? That's the biggest news going around. Nikki and Leo never made it together.

Greg turns to Kate.

GREG (CONT'D)

Kate? What about you? I've thought about you a lot over the years.

KATE

Really?

Kate bats her eyelids.

KATE (CONT'D)

Well, I married Randy. You remember Randy?

Greg rubs his eye, nods.

GREG
How could I forget?

Greg points to a small scar above his eye.

KATE
Had four kids, gained a ton of
weight, and now here I sit.
Exciting, isn't it?

Kate pours more wine.

GREG
It was really good seeing you two.
Need to get back to the wife before
she accuses me of--

JEN
Nice seeing you again, Greg. Take
care.

Greg gazes at Kate a moment, somewhat shocked, before heading
back to his table.

KATE
Hmm. Guess he was disappointed.
It's not exactly likely that anyone
will be worried about their hubbies
having an affair with me.

Jen notices Leo walk in, stands, wobbles on her heels, heads
across the room.

KATE (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

JEN
I'm going to get me some.

KATE
Some what?

JEN
Some Leo.

Kate chuckles. She reaches for the bottle of wine, but before
she does, Jen grabs it, staggers with glass and bottle in
hand toward Leo's table.

The party gets into full swing. Everyone heads for the dance
floor.

Jen grabs onto Leo, drags him to the dance floor.

JEN (CONT'D)
I'm sure I could teach you a thing
or two.

LEO
I'm pretty sure you could, but I'm
not really in the mood to dance
now.

Jen trips, giggles, grabs onto Leo's arm.

JEN
You wouldn't want me on the dance
floor all on my own, would you?

Jen stumbles a bit.

LEO
Guess not.

Leo assists Jen to the dance floor.

Nikki enters the room, beelines for them.

Leo props Jen up, keeps her from falling.

NIKKI
Leo, I think our conversation came
out all wrong. Please give me ten
more minutes to explain?

JEN
Nope, he's busy.

Nikki spins her around. Jen stumbles, falls slamming into
Nikki, spilling the red wine she holds all over the front of
the pink satin dress.

JEN (CONT'D)
Whoopsie.

NIKKI
You bitch. Look what you've done!

Jen laughs. Leo moves her away from the line of fire.

LEO
Geez, Nikki, that was an accident.

Kate watches from her table with a fresh bottle of wine in
front of her, now amused again.

Mary comes over, sits next to Kate.

MARY
Having fun?

KATE
Check it out.

Mary gaze out into the crowd, notices Nikki's dress as she attempts to wipe it with a napkin. Nikki heads out the door in tears.

MARY
Oh, oh. That's the second time I've seen her dash for the bathroom tonight. What happened?

KATE
A bit of payback.

MARY
Maybe we should go help her.

KATE
Nah. Don't bother. She deserves it. Where's Ben?

MARY
Doing skits with the drama club I think. Look what I found.

Mary opens an old year book, shares some pictures with Kate.

MARY (CONT'D)
You know, I can't help wondering what Nikki did to make you so mad at her. You three were so tight.

KATE
That was a long time ago.

Jen, now sloppy drunk is all over Leo. He pretends to be enjoying it.

The band stops playing.

An ANNOUNCER jumps up on stage.

Leo struggles to keep Jen upright while helping her back to his table.

ANNOUCER

May I have your attention? I'd like to point out our class of '99 chosen, "The two most likely to succeed", and see how they lived up to their title.

Everyone stops, claps.

ANNOUCER (CONT'D)

Let's give it up for, Kate Wilson and Tony Barrago.

The room cheers.

Jen's jaw drops as she waits for Tony to appear in the crowd.

Nikki, in a different dress, leads a now very handsome Tony, well developed from hours in the gym, arm in arm, to the stage.

Nikki glares back at Jen, then smirks.

Tony stands there, loving his moment of glory. The crowd cheers louder.

ANNOUCER (CONT'D)

Kate, come on, don't be shy.

Mary nudges Kate. Kate shakes her head emphatically, covers her eyes with her hands.

KATE

No!

Jen raises her glasses, points at Kate.

JEN

She's here! Come on, Kate!

Jen grabs her by the arm, drags her to the front of the room.

KATE

Please, Jen.

Kate stumbles up on stage with Tony.

ANNOUCER

So, Tony. Not to put you on the spot, did you live up to everyone's expectations?

TONY

Well, I graduated from college with a medical degree and became a missionary with First Baptist church, where I helped with Medical care of the less fortunate in third world countries.

The crowd cheers, then falls silent. All eyes on Kate.

ANNOUCER

Kate? How'd you do in life?

Kate fidgets, flustered a moment.

KATE

I... After I left professional modeling, I attended college and I'm a Special Ed teacher now helping the learning disabled at the University of Columbia.

Jen howls, claps loudly.

JEN

Way to go, Kate!

The crowd remains silent, some confused. One claps, and another, until there's several people clapping for Kate.

ANNOUCER

Well, that certainly sounds like you both were chosen by our class wisely. Again, please give a hand to our most successful, the class of '99. Now let's make it a night we'll always remember.

The applause picks up as the band takes the stage again.

Nikki stares at Kate, dumbfounded. Kate slams into Nikki on her way back to the table.

TONY

Well, that was interesting.

NIKKI

It certainly was.

Nikki runs after Kate, grabs her by the arm.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Why would you lie like that?

Kate yanks her arm free.

KATE
We didn't all get to become big
breasted have-it-alls like you.

NIKKI
I don't have it all.

KATE
Could've fooled me.

Tony grabs Nikk's arm, leads her to the bar.

TONY
Come on, babe.

Jen grabs the bottle and doesn't bother with the glass anymore. She guzzles it.

Leo tries to stop her.

LEO
Whoa, now, I think you've had
enough.

JEN
I'm a big girl, Leo.

Leo gets the bottle from her.

LEO
Sure, but this isn't the way to
prove it.

Leo turns his back to put the bottle on a table.

The band plays a tune from the eighties. Jen climbs up on a table, starts a strip tease. The men in the room crowd around.

Leo tries everything in his power to stop her.

Kate and Mary watch.

KATE
Holy shit.

MARY
I think we need get her to bed.
I'll call security in case this
gets ugly.

KATE
Yeah. Good idea.

Men in the room hoot and yell.

Nikki and Tony stand at the bar and watch.

NIKKI
I should help, get her--

TONY
No! Let her be. This is awesome.

Others try to get Jen to come down, but it's no use. She's stripped down to a pair of skimpy underpants in high heels. She does a seductive hot number on the table. Her bare boobs flap around to the beat of the song the live band is playing.

Nikki climbs on a chair, pleads with Jen.

NIKKI
Jen, please, let's get down from here.

Jen shoves Nikki hard.

JEN
Now you want to ruin my party?

Nikki falls into Leo's arms. He places her on the ground, tries to con Jen down again.

LEO
Jen, come on.

Jen points at Nikki.

JEN
Keep that bitch away from me.

LEO
Okay.

Leo turns to Nikki.

LEO (CONT'D)
You need to move away.

NIKKI
But--

LEO
You're stressing her out and it's not helping.

The men in the room whistle. Some stick dollar bills down her panties.

Nikki backs away through the crowd.

Kate pulls on Jen's bare legs, holds out her dress to her.

KATE

Come on, Jen. Let's get some coffee
and go back to the room now.

Jen giggles, wobbles a bit before stopping. A strange look crosses her face, and without warning she pukes over the side of the table, hitting Kate square in the face.

Tony laughs hysterically.

TONY

A night nobody will ever forget.

Jen tries to step seductively onto a chair, trips, knocks Kate over.

When Kate sits up again, she is bald. A wig lies on the ground at Nikki's feet.

Nikki bends to get it, but Kate grabs it before she can, shoves it back on her head before anyone else notices. Nikki stares at Kate in shock.

Kate runs from the room, sobbing.

Nikki is about to go after Kate when there's a loud whoop from Jen.

JEN

Let's party!

Leo wraps Jen in a table cloth and rushes her out of the room.

Nikki runs after Leo.

NIKKI

I'll lead you to our room. Let's
get her to bed.

LEO

I think it's best if I take care of
her tonight.

Leo pushes past Nikki, bumping her out of the way.

NIKKI
She's my friend. I can handle it.

Jen starts to cry uncontrollably.

Nikki sighs, attempts to put her arm around Jen. Jen pushes her away.

JEN
Don't you touch me. Don't you dare touch me. Ever!

Nikki throws up her hands in resignation.

NIKKI
I give up.

Leo turns to Nikki, angry.

LEO
Seems that's your solution to everything. Just give up.

NIKKI
I do not just give up--

LEO
You gave up on us, didn't you?

NIKKI
I've been trying to explain to you all night...

Leo shakes his head, clearly disappointed.

LEO
If you weren't so self-absorbed, you would realize that...

Leo looks Nikki up and down.

LEO (CONT'D)
You're no more beautiful now than you were twenty years ago. To me anyway.

Leo pulls Jen close to him, leads her to the elevator.

LEO (CONT'D)
And you'd be the one your friends would be asking for help.

INT. HOTEL - BALLROOM -- LATER

The crowd has thinned out substantially.

Nikki, looking defeated, sits down at the table, holds her head in her hands.

A phone rings. Nikki searches under the table, lifts up Kate's bag.

She looks around, opens the bag, pulls out the phone. The caller identification reads: "XXX Hospital".

Tony approaches the table.

TONY

You look like you could use a drink.

NIKKI

Yeah, I could... And some fresh air.

TONY

I'll get the drinks and meet you out there.

NIKKI

Make it a double.

EXT. HOTEL - PATIO -- NIGHT

Nikki and Tony stand looking over the rail. Nikki downs the rest of her drink.

TONY

Another??

NIKKI

I think I should call it a night.

TONY

Ah, gee, come on. The night is still young. We should be partying, reliving our youth.

NIKKI

You go on ahead without me.

Tony wraps his arms around Nikki. She tries to pry him off of her.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
Please leave me. I'm getting pretty tired.

TONY
Let's go to your room then.

Nikki struggles against him.

NIKKI
Let me go!

Tony gropes her harder.

TONY
You don't honestly expect me to believe that this isn't exactly why you bought this body?

Tony rips the sleeve of Nikki's dress. Nikki screams out.

Leo runs from the building, pulls Tony around, slams his fist into Tony's face.

LEO
She said no!

Tony struggles to get back to his feet.

Nikki reaches into her bag, pulls out a mace spray, and sprays it in Tony's eyes. He falls to the ground again, screaming.

Leo pulls Nikki's sleeve back into place.

LEO (CONT'D)
You okay?

Nikki nods. They stare into each other's eyes for a moment, then Leo pulls away, walks back to the hotel.

Nikki runs after him.

NIKKI
Thank you, I don't know what I would've done if you hadn't--

LEO
Maybe you should've thought of that before you hooked up with that leech.

NIKKI
I didn't know he was going to...

Nikki stops mid sentence, watches Leo storm off.

INT. HOTEL - LEO'S ROOM -- DAY

Two lumps lie under the covers. Jen pokes her head out of the blankets, rolls over. Her makeup is smeared all over her face.

Her eyes flutter open. She sits up, gazes at the lump next to her.

She realizes she's totally naked, covers her top half with the blanket.

JEN
Leo, wake up.

No answer, but the body next to her stirs under the covers.

Jen taps him.

JEN (CONT'D)
Leo?

SARAH
Should we order some breakfast?

Jen jumps up horrified as Sarah throws the blankets off his face.

JEN
Who the hell are you?

SARAH
Did you have a good night?

JEN
I... I can't remember a thing.

SARAH
Leo had to dash for an emergency.
Told me to look after you. You
should remember me from school. I'm
Sarah Miller.

JEN
Oh, my god.

SARAH
Yeah, well.

Sarah grabs her crotch.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Things change.

Jen grabs her clothes, tries to dress, still covered in the blanket.

JEN
But still I... Did we?

SARAH
Don't flatter yourself, you were so toasted. Leo was worried you might not wake up, so he told me to look after you.

Jen suddenly looks up, shocked.

JEN
You and Leo aren't...?

SARAH
Oh heck, no. He's my psychiatrist. Thought I'd probably need the support here.

JEN
Great. But, that doesn't answer my question here. Did we...?

Sarah closes the bathroom door.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM - DAWN

The thick curtains are drawn.

Nikki opens the room door, steps in the dark room, quietly closes it behind her.

NIKKI
Kate?

Nikki puts Kate's bag on the table, opens the curtains, letting in some light.

Kate's bed is empty, her bags gone.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
Shit.

Kate's phone rings again.

Nikki pulls it out of the bag and answers this time.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Hello.

DOCTOR SAGE (FILTERED)

Mrs. Wilson, this is Doctor Sage speaking. I have an opening for surgery this afternoon.

NIKKI

I'm sorry, I'm not--

DOCTOR SAGE (FILTERED)

You cannot postpone any longer. Without the surgery, you have months, maybe weeks left. I know how difficult this is, but you do have to face the reality.

Nikki's eyes widen.

NIKKI

What time, Doctor?

DOCTOR SAGE (FILTER)

Three in the afternoon. But you have to book in by twelve, nothing to eat all day--

NIKKI

She'll... I'll be there.

Nikki rushes out of the room.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY -- DAY

The elevator doors open. Nikki gazes around, concerned. She runs to the reception.

NIKKI

One of the ladies who was staying with me is missing. Have you seen her. Plump, dark hair...

DESK CLERK

That her?

The Desk Clerk points to the door.

Nikki spots Kate hailing a taxi.

NIKKI

Kate! Wait! I need to talk to you.

Nikki gains on the doors.

EXT. HOTEL -- CONTINUOUS

Unable to hear her, Kate climbs into the taxi.

Nikki races through the large glass doors, just in time to watch the taxi drive off.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY -- MOMENTS LATER

A despondent Nikki walks through the glass doors.

Jen pops out the elevator doors, heads for where Nikki is standing.

JEN

Bitch!

NIKKI

Cow!

The two stare at each other. Nikki sighs.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

This is ridiculous.

JEN

Yeah, you have been.

Nikki pulls out Kate's phone, flips it open.

NIKKI

You see all these calls from the hospital on Kate's phone.

Jen takes the phone, scrolls through.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I think our friend is in trouble.

JEN

What kind of trouble?

NIKKI

Life and death kind. If we don't get her to the hospital by noon.

JEN

Where is she?

NIKKI
She just left.

JEN
Why the hell didn't you stop her?

NIKKI
Did you think I was standing out on
the sidewalk in my torn dress for
the heck of it?

JEN
Oh.

NIKKI
I'm not sure if either of us can
reach her, but I'm determined to
try.

JEN
What the hell happened last night?

Nikki leads Jen back to the elevators.

NIKKI
I woke up, that's what happened.

Jen gives Nikki a puzzled look as they step inside the
elevator doors.

JEN
You mean I didn't make an ass out
of myself like I used to every time
I drank?

NIKKI
Oh, you totally made an ass of
yourself.

Jen sees her disheveled state in the mirror, starts to
giggle.

JEN
Oh god, we're a mess.

NIKKI
Speak for yourself.

Jen touches the torn sleeve of Nikki's dress. It slides off
her shoulder.

The two start to chuckle.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
Let's go find Kate.

JEN
Yeah, just as soon as we get changed. We'd just scare the crap out of her looking like this.

NIKKI
For the record, Leo rescued you before you did anything really terrible last night.

JEN
Thank god.

The elevator doors close.

INT. HOTEL - LADIES' ROOM -- LATER

Nikki and Jen, both dressed in casual clothes, slam their belongings into bags.

JEN
Where do we even start looking?

NIKKI
Home.

JEN
You really think she'd go there?

NIKKI
I don't know. Where else should we start?

JEN
We're gonna need a fast car. Sounds like we could do a lot of driving around.

Nikki stops packing.

NIKKI
You're right. I have an idea.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Nikki knocks on Leo's door. He opens, gives her an irritated look.

LEO
What now?

NIKKI
We need your help.

LEO
You stopped needing anything from
me twenty years ago.

NIKKI
It's not for me. It's for Kate.
She's in a lot of trouble.

EXT. HOTEL -- LATER

Nikki and Jen wait on the sidewalk with the bellhops and
their luggage.

Leo's car pulls up. He pops the trunk open, climbs out.

The bellhops load the luggage, slam the trunk closed.

Nikki puts on her sunglasses.

NIKKI
Thanks for doing this, Leo.

LEO
For Kate.

Leo glances at Jen.

LEO (CONT'D)
You feeling okay this morning?

JEN
Yeah. I never got a chance to thank
you.

LEO
Don't sweat it. Just don't do it
again.

JEN
Never.

Leo climbs into the driver's seat, closes his door.

Jen shoves Nikki to the front passenger seat.

NIKKI
You should sit up front.

JEN
This is your last chance.

Jen climbs in the back.

Nikki hesitates, then opens the front door, climbs in.

INT. CAR - STREET -- MOMENTS LATER

An awkward silence as they drive. Nikki stares out at the passing buildings.

JEN
I can't believe Kate didn't tell me. I call her every week.

NIKKI
You know, I think we all have secrets we've been keeping from each other.

Jen's head drops.

JEN
You know about me, too, then?

NIKKI
You? No, I meant me...

Leo glances over at Nikki.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
... but while we're on the subject, what about you?

Jen sighs, despondent.

JEN
You know back when I went into rehab to stop drinking?

NIKKI
Yeah. No offense, your drinking problem was no secret.

JEN
The fact I was drunk driving and hit someone, was.

NIKKI
Oh, shit.

JEN

That little stay at rehab was court ordered. I had to do time too.

Nikki's eyes widen.

NIKKI

Oh, my god. Was anyone hurt?

JEN

Yeah, a kid. Put him in the hospital for months. He's now in a wheelchair. I swore to myself, I'd make it up to him someday, but... After last night, I just failed both of us. Not to mention my own kids.

Nikki turns to look at Jen.

NIKKI

No. You slipped, but that doesn't mean you failed. You drank because I provoked you to, so if anything it's my fault.

Jen stares out the window, tears well up in her eyes.

JEN

Well, I lost everything because of it. My husband, house and kids, and still I feel like I don't deserve to be alive.

NIKKI

Oh, Jen. Don't say that.

Leo looks at Jen in the mirror.

LEO

You have every right to be alive, Jen. Last night was just a bump in the road.

A long pause of silence.

JEN

What about you, Nikki?

Nikki swallows hard, stares out the window. Leo looks over at her. Her lip quivers slightly.

LEO

Well, I can tell you what my secret is. I still live with my mom.

Both women stare at Leo in disbelief. He shrugs.

LEO (CONT'D)

I guess it was just easier to keep things as they were. I was kind of hanging on for something that was never going to happen.

Jen suddenly notices a sign post.

JEN

Turn here.

Leo swerves into the street.

EXT. WILSON'S HOUSE - DAY

Leo's car pulls up across the street from the house.

They sit in the car, watch the house.

INT. CAR - WILSON'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Nikki peers through the windshield.

NIKKI

I hope Randy's not there. He's such an asshole.

JEN

I'm banking he's home.

NIKKI

Maybe we should wait until morning.

JEN

I say we go for it.

NIKKI

Yeah?

JEN

Yeah.

Leo opens his door to get out. Nikki places a hand on his arm to stop him.

NIKKI

Maybe you should wait here. If Randy is there, it may feel like he's being confronted if we all storm up there.

Leo closes his door again.

LEO

Okay, but if there's any trouble, you signal for me.

Nikki and Jen climb out of the car, head for the front porch.

EXT. WILSON'S HOUSE - PORCH -- CONTINUOUS

Nikki bangs on the door. Jen stands back behind her to hide.

Randy throws open the door with a beer in his hand.

RANDY

What?

Randy peers at the two.

RANDY (CONT'D)

What the hell do you two want?

Randy looks over their shoulders.

RANDY (CONT'D)

She out there in the car? What's she want now? Money? Tell her I ain't got any.

NIKKI

No, we thought she was home?

Randy chuckles.

RANDY

She don't live here no more. Told her if she goes off to her dumbass reunion with all her dumbass boyfriends, she and her dumbass kids can all get the hell out.

JEN

Quite a vocabulary you've got there.

NIKKI

Where can we find her?

RANDY

How the hell would I know? Probably
at her sister's place.

Randy starts to close the door, but Nikki catches her foot in
it, stopping him.

NIKKI

Randy, you either talk to us, or
you're going to be one sorry son-of-
a-bitch.

JEN

Is Kate ill?

RANDY

Haha, yeah, she's ill. Looks like
Frankenstein since they took her
one tit off.

Randy sips his beer, chuckles to himself.

RANDY (CONT'D)

At least it'll match if they take
the other one off.

Randy sneers, tries to close the door again, but Nikki forces
her way inside.

NIKKI

You heartless bastard.

RANDY

Oh? Whatcha gonna do about it,
bitch?

NIKKI

I'm going to make sure Kate gets it
all, this house, kids, and
everything you've ever worked for,
is what.

RANDY

Ha, Kate can't even afford a free
lawyer. It's really a blessing
she'll be out of my life for good.

A YOUNG WOMAN comes out of the room wrapped in a bathrobe.

YOUNG WOMAN

Randy, who's here?

Randy snaps back in anger.

RANDY
Get back in the room, woman.

The woman scurries back to the bedroom, closes the door.

RANDY (CONT'D)
Now, get out before I call the
police.

NIKKI
It takes a dickless man to abandon
his sick wife.

RANDY
Out!

NIKKI
Kate may not have money, but I do,
and I've been looking for the right
project to spend it on. I think you
just inspired me.

Randy pushes Jen and Nikki out, slams the front door.

Their jaws drops open. They stand there stunned for a moment.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
What the hell was that?

JEN
Demon from hell, I think.

NIKKI
Where's a frying pan when you need
it? That man really needs his skull
bashed in.

JEN
I know where her sister lives.

Nikki slicks down her outfit, storms down the sidewalk,
climbs in the car.

Jen scurries behind her.

EXT. KATE'S SISTER'S HOUSE -- DAY

A small, cozy home. Leo's car stands in the driveway. Leo
leans against it, waiting.

Jen and Nikki stand on the porch. Jen knocks. Kate's sister,
MARLENE, opens the door.

MARLENE

Oh dear, Kate's not going to be happy to see the two of you.

NIKKI

We're here to take her to the hospital.

Marlene steps outside, closes the door behind her.

MARLENE

She doesn't need to go to the hospital. Since the mastectomy, she's been fine.

JEN

She's in denial. She's not fine.

NIKKI

She needs to be in the hospital by twelve.

Kate shoves open the door, pushes Nikki.

KATE

You have no right.

NIKKI

Come on, Kate, we're trying to help.

KATE

I've had about all the help I need from you.

Kate turns on Jen.

KATE (CONT'D)

I can't believe you're supporting her.

NIKKI

I found your phone. I know that you're ill.

KATE

So, you know. It's my problem, and I'll deal with it.

NIKKI

No. I won't let you deal with it alone.

JEN

We won't.

Marlene stares at Kate, stunned by the news.

MARLENE

Why didn't you tell me?

Kate starts to sob.

KATE

I couldn't. I don't want to go through this again.

MARLENE

You have to do this, Kate. For your kids. For me.

JEN

For all of us.

NIKKI

Look, I know I've been a shithead. Believe it or not, you've helped me realize how shallow I've been. Looks don't matter. It's what's inside.

Kate shakes her head.

KATE

Ha. Tell that to Randy. I mean, look, you got boobs, I got scars where boobs used to be. The only thing Randy had to hold at night is my memory foam. Sexy, huh?

JEN

Randy's an idiot.

NIKKI

Is that why you're so angry at me, Kate? The boobs?

Kate looks away.

KATE

Oh god, I'm so embarrassed. Every time I looked at you, it just made me realize more what I don't have.

NIKKI

They can fix that. Please let me help you.

Leo strolls over, taps his watch.

LEO

Sorry to break up the party,
ladies, but time's ticking away.
Kate, are you going to come to the
hospital peacefully, or am I going
to have to throw you over my
shoulder and drag you there?

Everyone giggles.

KATE

Okay, okay, let me just say good-
bye to the kids.

Kate heads inside.

JEN

I'll get her bags.

Jen follows Kate into the house.

INT. KATES SISTERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Kate hugs her SON (6) and DAUGHTER (2).

Jen watches from the doorway.

KATE

Mommy won't be gone for long, but I
need you two to stay here with
Aunty Marlene.

The little girl's eyes fill with tears.

KATE'S DAUGHTER (1)

Love you, Mama.

Kate pulls her daughter to her, gives her a big hug.

KATE

I love you more.

Kate kisses her little boy and whispers in his ear. He
smiles, gives her a big hug.

Jen swallows hard, heads out.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Kate watches television, sitting upright in her hospital bed.

Jen and Nikki watch her from the doorway. Nikki raps at the door.

Kate notices the two, turns down the sound.

Jen sits in the chair, Nikki takes a seat on the edge of the bed.

KATE

I'm so afraid of dying. I keep thinking what if this doesn't work? What next?

JEN

Oh, no. You're not going to die. We won't have it.

JEN(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

We're going to help you through this and you're going to come back better than ever. Right, Nikki?

NIKKI

You're damn right. Don't get ahead of yourself, Kate. Let's deal with this problem before we start creating new ones.

Kate let's out a long sigh. She grips Nikki's hand tight. Jen hugs her, then Nikki takes a turn. The three women cry together.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM -- DAY

Jen paces. Nikki flips through a magazine. Leo reads a newspaper.

LEO

I still don't understand you.

NIKKI

I thought you knew everything about people.

LEO

Nobody knows everything.

NIKKI

Then maybe you shouldn't make wild assumptions about who I am now.

LEO

I'm not assuming anything.

NIKKI

You are. You're assuming I didn't return for selfish reasons.

LEO

I only know I was left waiting. Perhaps a simple phone call would have made a world of a difference.

Nikki looks away, afraid to make eye contact.

NIKKI

I couldn't. I'm sorry. There's just some things I didn't feel like reliving.

LEO

Not even for love, huh? What could be so horrible you couldn't share it with me? At least I would have understood your sudden absence.

NIKKI

Never mind. Can we drop it now?

LEO

I did a long time ago. You're the one who keeps trying to bring it up again.

Jen notices the two bickering.

JEN

Dammit. What's taking so long?

NIKKI

I wouldn't worry.

LEO

Jen. Please sit. You're making me dizzy.

Jen sits in a chair, fidgets.

JEN

There's something wrong. I just know it. She should have been out an hour ago.

NIKKI

Good God. If you're that worried, go have a nurse check on her status.

JEN
Right. Good idea.

Jen jumps up, heads for the nurse's station, but is stopped by a very handsome DOCTOR (30s).

DOCTOR
Are you waiting on news about Kate?

Jen stares into his eyes, stammers.

JEN
Kate, who?

DOCTOR
I was sent to update Kate's friends in the waiting room. Sorry, I thought you were with them.

The doctor walks toward Nikki and Leo. Jen stands there frozen, mesmerized by the young doctor.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Hi, I'm Doctor Phelan. I assisted in Kate's surgery.

Nikki and Leo both stand, shake the doctors hand.

LEO
How is she, Doctor?

DOCTOR
The surgery went well. All we can do is wait now, see how she responds to the next round of treatments.

NIKKI
When can we see her?

DOCTOR
She should be awake enough in about an hour or so.

The doctor heads back into the hallway. Jen's eyes follow him in a fixed trance.

NIKKI
Uh, you want to quit drooling now, and call Marlene? I'm sure she's as worried as you were.

Jen snaps out of it, grabs her cell phone.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

The room is filled with flowers and cards.

Jen, Nikki and Leo stand over Kate as a NURSE sits her up in bed for supper.

KATE

You guys, I wish you'd stop doting over me so much.

NIKKI

Hey, that's what friends are for. How you feeling?

KATE

Actually much better. At least I know I'm beating the cancer this time. They say I can go home in a few days.

Nikki smiles mischievously.

NIKKI

And they say if all goes well, you can get reconstructive surgery in six months. I've already spoken to my cosmetic surgeon...

Kate's eyes fill with tears.

Doctor Phelan knocks, enters the room carrying a chart. Jen freezes again, gazes at his bare ring finger.

Doctor Phelan flips open the chart, scribbles down on it. He becomes self-conscious, glances at Jen, closes the chart and places it at the end of Kate's bed.

DOCTOR

The pain meds working?

KATE

Yeah, I'm feeling much better, thanks.

DOCTOR

Great.

Jen, flustered, rushes for the door.

JEN

Ill, uh, be back soon...

LEO

Well, I really need to get back. I have a full day of appointments tomorrow.

KATE

Thanks, Leo. So good of you to stop by.

Leo kisses Kate's cheek. He glances at Nikki.

LEO

Nikki.

NIKKI

Leo.

Nikki's face sinks as Leo exits.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Jen paces in the hallway with her cell phone in her hand. She stop, takes a deep breath, dials.

JEN (INTO PHONE)

Markus, hi... I was wondering... Uh... Can I speak to the kids... I know, I'm working real hard to pull myself together... I wouldn't call if I didn't think I was ready...

Jen waits for a beat.

JEN (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Hey sweetie... Mommy misses you too.

Jen ends the call, sits against the wall, leans back and smiles.

Dr. Phelan walks by. Jen hops up, follows close behind him.

JEN (CONT'D)

Doctor? Can I have a word with you?

The doctor turns, smiles.

JEN (CONT'D)

I, uh, you really think Kate's doing well now?

DOCTOR

So how do you know her?

Dr. Phelan gives her a teasing smile.

JEN
I'm a friend.

DOCTOR
That's funny, I thought you weren't--
-

JEN
Oh, never mind that, you just had
me all flustered and I forgot who I
was for a moment.

The doctor laughs.

DOCTOR PHELAN
Me?

Jen nods, embarrassed. He blushes.

DOCTOR
Kate seems to be progressing fine.
I think she's got a shot at making
a full recovery.

The doctor heads down the hall. Jen scurries to keep up with
him.

JEN
Uh...

DOCTOR
Yes?

JEN
Are you uh, doing anything after
work?

DOCTOR
Hadn't planned on it?

JEN
Can I buy you dinner? I mean, if
you don't have--

The doctor stops, stares at Jen for a moment, slightly
shocked.

Jen flashes a smile.

JEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, never mind. I just
thought...

Jen turns to leave. The doctor watches her, thinks a moment.

DOCTOR
Hell, why not... uh...?

JEN
Jen.

DOCTOR
Okay, Jen, I get off at nine. I'll meet you downstairs in the waiting area.

Jen's smile returns.

JEN
Great. Nine it is, then.

Jen heads back to Kate's room.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM -- NIGHT

Nikki and Kate sit together, drinking coffee.

NIKKI
You really want to know my secret, Jen?

Jen nods.

JEN
Do you need to tell me?

Nikki stares into her cup.

NIKKI
You have no idea how hard it is.

Jen leans forward, squeezes Nikki's arm.

JEN
I don't need to know, but if you want a chance with Leo, I think you may need to tell him.

NIKKI
He's so angry, I couldn't get him to listen to me.

JEN
He's not angry as much as he's hurt.

NIKKI

Maybe you're right.

JEN

It's ironic. Leo's the one who could have helped you the most.

NIKKI

Life's too short, you know. Maybe it's time to forget the past and move forward.

Jen gives a weak smile.

JEN

I'm all over that moving forward shit... You still love him, don't you?

NIKKI

Of course.

JEN

Force him to listen to you. He's a doctor. Make an appointment.

Nikki thinks deeply a moment.

NIKKI

God. You think I should?

Jen gives Nikki a hug.

JEN

I don't think, I know. And I think he's still in love with you too, he's just afraid of getting hurt again. It's the only way you're going to set things right between the two of you.

Doctor Phelan comes around the corner, spots Jen.

JEN (CONT'D)

Here's my cue to get a life again.

NIKKI

Have fun.

JEN

You are right about one thing, life is too short and I damn well plan on doing something about it.

Jen links her arm through Dr. Phelan's. The two exit through the double doors. Nikki stares after them.

EXT. LEO'S OFFICE BUILDING -- DAY

Nikki paces a few times down the sidewalk, stops. She turns to leave. Stops again, gazes at the office door.

NIKKI
The hell with it.

She takes a deep breath before entering the building.

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - WAITING AREA -- DAY

A RECEPTIONIST answers the phone at her desk.

Nikki enters, stops at the desk.

NIKKI
I have an appointment at three.

RECEPTIONIST
Name?

NIKKI
Nicole Bronson.

RECEPTIONIST
Fill this out, have a seat.

The Receptionist hands her forms to fill out.

Nikki returns the signed forms. She picks up a magazine, takes a seat.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
You can go on back now. The doctor
will be with you in a few minutes.

Nikki lets out a long sigh, opens the office door and enters.

INT. LEO'S OFFICE -- DAY

Nikki gazes around the office. She notices a picture on his desk of the two of them as teens.

Nikki picks up the photo, stares at it for a moment.

The door opens suddenly, startles her. She drops the picture. Glass shatters on the floor.

NIKKI
Oh, God.

LEO
Nikki?

Nikki scrambles to pick up the broken glass.

NIKKI
I'm so sorry.

LEO
Forget about it. It's time I throw
it away anyhow. What the hell are
you doing here?

Nikki regains her composure.

NIKKI
I have an appointment with you.

LEO
Please don't waste my time.

NIKKI
I've booked and paid. You have to
listen to me for my forty-five
minutes.

Leo looks at the chart.

LEO
Fine. Bronson?

NIKKI
Kinda knew you wouldn't see me.

Leo takes a seat with his notepad and pen in hand.

LEO
You now got forty-three minutes, so
shoot.

NIKKI
I'm going to just jump to the
point, Leo.

LEO
I'm waiting.

NIKKI
I was raped.

A pained look crosses Leo's face.

LEO

Oh...

NIKKI

The first party I went to on campus... A drunk guy... Oh shit, I cant--

LEO

Why the hell didn't you just tell me?

NIKKI

Twenty years later I still haven't talk about it. I felt it was my fault and I didn't know what to do, so I just... stopped speaking to you, or anybody.

LEO

Oh, dear Lord.

Tears stream down Nikki's face.

NIKKI

I felt so dirty, and defiled after that. I just felt my relationships with men would never be the same.

LEO

I should've realized. The total make-over, the overly self-confident exterior.

NIKKI

I couldn't face myself. I married a man I didn't even like, thinking financial security would see me through. Sadly, I think he actually did love me when we first met.

LEO

Did you ever try to explain it to him?

NIKKI

No. He just thought I was some under-sexed prude. So he found what he needed elsewhere.

Nikki shakes her head.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I've always loved you, Leo. I
couldn't put you through the hell I
suffered.

Leo sets down the pad and pen, leans forward on his chair,
takes her hand in his.

LEO

It's okay now. We can work through
this together.

Nikki sobs uncontrollably. Leo lifts her chin, kisses her
cheek, rubs the tears with his fingers.

NIKKI

Together?

Leo gives her a reassuring look.

LEO

Yeah. Together.

The two embrace, holding each other tight.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

SUPER: "Two years later..."

The double doors fling open.

Nikki, dressed in a wedding gown, and Leo, in a tux, exit the
church, followed by Kate, looking much thinner, with huge set
of boobs, and Jen with Doctor Phelan by her side.

The rest of the WEDDING GUESTS follow behind tossing bags of
rice at the happy couple.

Nikki and Leo stop at a "Just married" decorated, waiting
limo with a surfboard strapped to the top.

Nikki turns to hug her friends.

NIKKI

Whoever said we need to turn back
time, is crazy. The future is
looking brighter than ever.

Kate adjusts her new boobs in her dress.

KATE

Amen to that.

Doctor Phelan wraps his arm around Jen's waist.

JEN

You guys have the time of your lives.

NIKKI

Like, we totally plan on it!

Nikki tosses the bouquet of flowers behind her.

Kate and Jen bash into each other to catch it, and as it's jostled, it ends up in Sarah Miller's hands. All eyes on Sarah, who is dressed in a tux. Sarah admires the flowers, then notices everyone's glare.

SARAH

What?

Everyone laughs.

Nikki and Leo climb into the limo and wave. The limo drives away.

JEN

Well, that's it then.

Jen glances at Kate.

JEN (CONT'D)

How are you coping with Randy remarrying?

KATE

Just great. You know, I sent Randy's new wife a little present last week.

JEN

Why the hell would you do a thing like that?

Kate chuckles.

KATE

Because I never forgot what you and Nikki said at the hotel. Thought if I couldn't make it work, maybe she could.

JEN

Are you out of your mind?

KATE

I even sent it with a set of instructions.

JEN

You did, huh? You're way too kind, Kate.

KATE

I just hope she gets up enough guts to use the damn thing one day.

INT. WILSON'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- DAY

Randy's new wife, the young woman he was with before, wipes up the kitchen counters.

Randy sits at the kitchen table, looks down at a plate of food.

RANDY

Bitch, you call this shit food?

Randy swipes the plate of food to the floor. Food spatters everywhere.

As she goes to pick it up, Randy shoves her over with his foot. He grabs her up by the hair, yanks her to her feet.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Cook me something I can eat this time. Move it, woman!

RANDY'S WIFE

Yes, dear.

Randy's wife opens a cupboard door, reaches in, pulls out a shiny new cast iron frying pan, with a ribbon around the handle.

She swings around, glares at Randy.

RANDY'S WIFE

You want breakfast. Cook it yourself, asshole!

Randy's wife wallops Randy in the forehead with it hard. She slams the cast iron pan on the table, storms out of the room.

Randy grabs the large knot on his forehead, gazes up, shocked at her.

RANDY
What the hell is wrong with you?

RANDY'S WIFE
Kate was right. You are a selfish,
gutless pig.

Randy sits there, dumbfounded.

INT. LIMO - STREET -- DAY

Leo holds Nikki close.

LEO
After all these years, we finally
did it.

Nikki pulls a chain from around her neck with Leo's ring he
gave her long ago, attached to the end of it.

Leo gazes at it for a moment.

LEO (CONT'D)
You kept it?

NIKKI
It's been with me ever since...

LEO
That was sure a long time ago.

NIKKI
I can't rewind our lives like an
old movie and change all the bad
that happened back then, but I can
sure make you a happy man, now and
forever, Leo.

Leo holds Nikki's face, stares deep into her eyes.

LEO
You are so beautiful.

NIKKI
You really mean that?

LEO
You bet I do.

He smiles, kisses her lips softly, which turns into one of
passion.

EXT. CITY -- DAY

The limo moves through traffic as the cans tied behind clank against the street.

FADE OUT.